



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

January 12, 2017

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Office of Inspector General Hotline Complaint 2017-0094

FROM:

[REDACTED]
Special Agent, Hotline Manager
Headquarters, Office of Inspector General

TO:

Joel Beauvais
Deputy Assistant Administrator
Office of Water

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Inspector General (OIG), Hotline received an electronic message from [REDACTED] a drinking water engineer in the State of Utah, [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] reported a potential human health risk from using Dichlor/Trichlor, a disinfectant for which there is no EPA-published concentration/time requirement.

This Hotline was referred to EPA, OIG Office of Program Evaluation (OPE) for review. Based on the potential for imminent human health risks from using an unapproved disinfectant in public water systems, OPE requested that the Hotline make a referral to the Office of Water (OW). Our review indicates that this issue may affect public water systems across multiple EPA regions. OPE has asked that OW review the complaint for appropriate handling. Specifically, OPE is requesting your response to the following five questions:

- (1) Are Dichlor or Trichlor disinfectants approved by EPA for primary or secondary disinfection of drinking water?
- (2) Has the EPA published concentration/time (CT) tables for Dichlor or Trichlor disinfectants?
- (3) Has the EPA established an analytical method to measure disinfection residual in the presence of Dichlor or Trichlor disinfectants?
- (4) Has the EPA determined the number of public water systems currently using Dichlor or Trichlor disinfectants for primary or secondary disinfection?
- (5) For public water systems who have installed Dichlor or Trichlor disinfectant treatment with or without primacy agency approval, please describe any next steps the EPA will take to refer this matter to the proper authorities, or other steps the EPA believes should be taken.

We established EPA OIG Hotline Number 2017-0094, to document the complaint. However, we are referring this matter to your office to address OIG's questions and for whatever action you determine necessary. Please inform the Hotline at [REDACTED] within the next 5 calendar days that this referral was received. It is also requested that OW report back to the EPA OIG Hotline its progress in responding to our questions, or reviewing or taking action on this referral within 30 days from receipt of this memorandum. Please do not hesitate calling me at [REDACTED] if there are any questions.

Attachment:

CC: Shaun McGrath, Regional Administrator, Region 8